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REFORESTATION.

When describing the effects of the reforestation of the "landes" of South Western France some time ago, there was not space to look at the economical side, save that the march of the sands across the fertile lands had been stopped, and that in that region the vineyards and wheat fields are protected and grow freely and luxuriantly, but the trees themselves have become a large source of profit. During the hundred years that reforestation has been going on, the trees have increased so much that they supply lumber, firewood, resin, turpentine and the by-products of resinous distillation in such abundance as not only to do away with importation, but also to make of this section of France a considerable and profitable exporter of the same. This is certainly a wonderful showing and an unanswerable argument in favor of reforestation.

On the other hand the United States, which in the beginning of the nineteenth century had the monopoly of naval stores and the resinous products for which civilization makes increasing demand, now finds a rival in South Western France, and has herself become an importer, through Bordeaux of the finer products of resinous distillation. While the United States has wasted her abundance by reckless destruction of her forests, including those of the pitch pine, France by the intelligent conservation of hers, through reforestation of her sand dunes, has made them productive and profitable. The one has evolved wealth from barrenness, and the other has evolved barrenness from abundant wealth.

Conditions similar to those of France a century ago extend today in many portions of the Atlantic and the Pacific seaboard. The question is will the conditions of today be reversed in the present century? From Maine to Florida, and from Mexico to British Columbia the causes which made the Dunes of Gascony are at work. Even on these islands we have destroyed our forests recklessly, and though we have no sand dunes except in a few places such as on the isthmus connecting East and West Maui, and on the plain between Keana and Mauna, we have made our hill-sides barren, denuded of trees and have caused tons of soil to be carried by the rain torrents into the sea.

We are making an effort at reforestation both on the mainland and here. We can see what success we shall have if we simply regard the growth of the reforested portion of Louisiana. That has made a success in something like twenty years. And that was amateur work. Now we have professional training to help us. But the Star would like to see an experiment made on the sand dunes of the Maui isthmus. It is quite extensive and is covered with perpetually shifting sand. If proper vegetation could be started upon it, the shifting of the sands might be prevented, and eventually some useful tree might be made to grow. If portions of the Sahara can be reforested, and of the Bikaner desert in India, what shifting sands we have here should easily be put in shape. And it goes without saying that the better we reforest, and the more we reforest, the better our water supply will be, for the water will not run off, when the rain falls, like water poured upon a tin roof.

Reforestation is one of the most important problems of the twentieth century, as far as the Western World is concerned. It is certainly one of the most important for us in this territory. Fortunately we are meeting the matter as far as we can afford, and we have a scientific expert to guide us properly and prevent us making mistakes.

ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES.

Now that with the return of the British Antarctic expedition under Captain Scott of the Discovery we have heard from all four expeditions, the Swedish, Scottish, German and British, that were in the field since 1900, The Philadelphia Press considers that it begins to look as if we had a pretty good chance of understanding the problem of the great Antarctic continent.

From the experience of the Swedish expedition on Grahamland, south of Cape Horn; from the results of the German expedition, which wintered due south of the Indian ocean, and now, more particularly, from the geographic facts obtained by the British expedition, it is clear that, like Greenland, the Antarctic continent is a vast extent of lofty mountains and high tableland, covered with an enormous ice cap. This ice cap is of so extraordinary a character that nothing that Greenland exhibits in the way of inland ice and glaciers compares with it, since the Antarctic ice cap, instead of discharging its glaciers at the seashore through narrow ravines in the mountain cliffs, pushes them out broadside over the edge of land, until, floating in the water, these bits of ice cap take the form of the enormous Antarctic icebergs that have been for so many years the terror and admiration of mariners.

Until modern science had clearly proved that icebergs are not the result of the piling up of ice floes, but invariably are the discharges from land glaciers of extensive inland ice cap regions, the true significance of these enormous icebergs and the so-called wall of ice in the Antarctic was missed. Even without any physical evidence of land, the modern explorer, familiar with ice formations, knows that to produce these great ice barriers in the Antarctic, some of them rising 280 feet from the water and representing ice masses over 1,000 feet in depth, calls for an extensive continent covered to the depth of several thousands of feet with an ice cap.

That such a continent exists is now made evident beyond dispute, and while its general outline has not been clearly determined, its main axis is seemingly established. This axis apparently stretches from Victoria land, which lies due south of New Zealand, across the pole up to Grahamland, which lies due south of Cape Horn. With the exception of the island masses which front on the new continent at Grahamland, the continent is entirely within the Antarctic circle. In mass it is probably very much larger than Australia, and, being continental, its mountain chains and plateaus are much loftier than those that Greenland knows.

The settling of whether there is a continent within the Antarctic circle is one which is of interest to us, since one of the leading scientific men, the late William Lothian Green used stoutly to maintain that there must be if any one would go down there and settle it. He deduced this from the tetrahedral theory of the shape of the earth, as opposed to the globular theory. All his maps contain the supposed outline of this continent, and when the records of these expeditions are published, it will be interesting to see how near his theoretical outline was to the outline furnished by the new discoveries. It is also interesting since the statements of Commodore Wilkes are confirmed, and for a time doubt was cast upon whether Wilkes' charts were correct. Green's outline was a sort of rough triangle with one apex pushing across the Antarctic circle, and the other two almost touching it. Had Mr. Green lived till now he would have been very pleased to have had his theories verified. However it is something for Hawaii to have had a scientific man who was in the advance guard of scientific thought.

THE WAR.

That there should be great surprise and grief in official Russian circles over the success of the Japanese military forces is to be expected. Equally that some one is going to be blamed for the Russian defeat is just as evident. The scapegoat is to be General Zassulitch. According to General Kuropatkin he had given him orders to run as soon as the

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Japs came in sight and the trouble was the General did not run fast enough. In all probability the Japanese came so fast after the Russians, that they had to make a stand. General Kuropatkin's idea of war may be paraphrased into the old "bar" story. "Did you see a dog chasing a bar?" "Yes, the dog was a little ahead." He would say, "Did you see the Russians chasing the Japs?" "Yes, the Russians were several miles ahead." "Good boys! Brave boys! I shall telegraph a glorious victory to Nicholas Alexandrovitch." And he would have been happy.

A story has been circulated among the ignorant Russians of the south that the Jews have had something to do with the Russian defeats, and a very hot anti-semitic feeling has been worked up. There can be little doubt that the governing classes are really helping the circulation of this lie, as it takes attention off their incapacity and rapacity.

The Republican platform has been outlined. In the dispatch its main features are given which are protection, reciprocity only where not in conflict with American products or manufactures, gold standard, restoration of merchant marine, negro vote intact and trusts lightly touched on. It is no use commenting on this until the full document arrives. It embodies the regular Republican doctrines which have carried the party to victory so often.

The preparations for marking the Alaska boundary have been completed and the members of the joint survey party will soon be appointed by their respective governments. In June the task of putting visible monuments along the line of boundary will be commenced. These monuments will be placed in accordance with the determination made by the Arbitration Tribunal, whose work that of the surveyors and engineers is necessary to complete. It is expected that the surveyors will begin in the Chilkat region where there are large mining interests developed and undeveloped. The idea is to mark the boundary first in a region where the absence of monuments might tend to foster disputes and litigation.

Valparaiso harbor is to be improved, and not before time. Last year two sailing vessels were driven ashore from their anchorage, and a passenger ship foundered. During the last eight years, 125 ships have been destroyed by heavy seas, and foundered, 18 have been driven ashore, 9 have been destroyed by collision in storms, 118 steam launches have gone to the bottom and 105 row and sail boats, a total of 378 or an average of 47 annually.

The strike fever is strong in the

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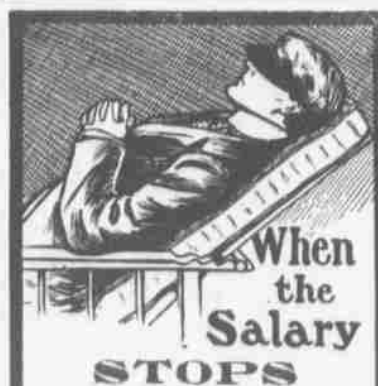
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mainland. There is one in San Francisco, one in Chicago one in Topeka, and one in Boston. Altogether there must be close on to 25,000 men out of work. This will be a heavy loss in wages and also in production.

The treasury of the Republic of Panama must be in good condition. The first million of Uncle Sam's money has just been paid over, how the Columbians at Bogota must gnash their teeth.

The sugar steamers have been lucky and have got several cargoes in so as to get the advantage of the high price of sugar.

It is all very well for the Russians to talk of overwhelming the Japanese by numbers, but if they can't feed their soldiers, they will not be worth much. Vladivostok is already suffering from want of provisions for the Japanese war vessels pounce upon any vessels carrying food stuffs. Port Arthur will find itself in similar condition. It begins to look as if the Russians were in a very bad fix.

Governor Carter is certainly a busy man. The Kaula trip will be a hurried one, and every hour of it will be filled up with business. Kaula is a strong Republican island now.

There is a chance of Pearl Harbor being made navigable for large vessels. Captain Niblack is taking a personal interest in collecting data for this purpose.

There seems to have been a chance of an engagement between the Vladivostok squadron and the Japanese. A sea fight on fairly equal terms would decide many questions with regard to battleships which naval experts would like to know.

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IT IS REMARKED That Horses and Cattle

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